# TENT COOPERATION TRUE, Y

# From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU **PCT** NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION **Assistant Commissioner for Patents** United States Patent and Trademark Office (PCT Rule 61.2) **Box PCT** Washington, D.C.20231 **ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE** Date of mailing (day/month/year) in its capacity as elected Office 12 October 2000 (12.10.00) Applicant's or agent's file reference International application No. PCT/US00/02423 MCA-437 PC International filing date (day/month/year) Priority date (day/month/year) 28 January 2000 (28.01.00) 29 January 1999 (29.01.99) **Applicant** CHENG, Kwok-Shun et al 1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made: in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on: 16 August 2000 (16.08.00) in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on: 2. The election was not made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Authorized officer

S. De Michiel

Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38

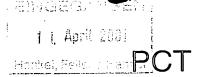
Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

From the

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:

HENKEL, FEILER & HÄNZEL Möhlstrasse 37 D-81675 München ALLEMAGNE



NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of mailing

(day/month/year)

10.04.2001

Applicant's or agent's file reference

International application No.

PCT/US00/02423

MCA-437 PC

International filing date (day/month/year)

28/01/2000

Priority date (day/month/year)

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

29/01/1999

Applicant

MILLIPORE CORPORATION et al.

- 1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
- 2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
- 3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.

# 4. REMINDER

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices) (Article 39(1)) (see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/

Authorized officer

Ipinazar, P

Tel.+49 89 2399-8131

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European Patent Office D-80298 Munich

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Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465

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Form PCT/IPEA/416 (July 1992)





AEC'D 12 APR 2001

### VERO PCT INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

14

	or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
MCA-43			Training Examination report (Form 1 of the Example)
	al application No.	International filing date (day/mo	
	00/02423	28/01/2000	29/01/1999
Internation B01D29		or national classification and IPC	
Applicant			
MILLIPO	RE CORPORATION e	t al.	
1. This	international preliminary e	examination report has been prepar	red by this International Preliminary Examining Authority
		ant according to Article 36.	, , ,
2. This	REPORT consists of a to	al of 6 sheets, including this cover	r sheet.
		aniad by ANNEVEO in the state of	
			f the description, claims and/or drawings which have s containing rectifications made before this Authority
		on 607 of the Administrative Instru	
Thes	e annexes consist of a to	al of sheets	
11100	o annoxed consist of a to	ar or sheets.	
3. This	report contains indications	relating to the following items:	
1	Basis of the report		
	<ul><li>☑ Basis of the report</li><li>☐ Priority</li></ul>		
 III	_	t of opinion with regard to novelty	inventive step and industrial applicability
1V	☐ Lack of unity of inv		inventive step and industrial applicability
V	☑ Reasoned statement  ■ Reasoned statem		to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
VI	☐ Certain document		
VII	□ Certain defects in the second control of the second con	the international application	
VIII	F-7	ns on the international application	
Date of sub	emission of the demand	Date	of completion of this report
		Date	e. completion of the report
16/08/20	00	10.04	1.2001
	mailing address of the interna examining authority:	ational Autho	prized officer
Prominiary	European Patent Office		(
<i>)</i> ))	D-80298 Munich	Luet	the, H
	Tel. +49 89 2399 - 0 Tx: 53 Fax: +49 89 2399 - 4465	·	phone No. +49 89 2399 7519
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Telephone No. +49 89 2399 7519



# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT



International application No. PCT/US00/02423

I. Ba	asis	of	the	rei	port
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1.	the and	receiving Office in	nents of the international application (Heplacement sheets which have been furnished to response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" of this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)):
	1-2	1	as originally filed
	Cla	ims, No.:	
	1-3	2	as originally filed
	Dra	awings, sheets:	
	1/5	-5/5	as originally filed
2.	Wit lang	h regard to the <b>lang</b> guage in which the i	<b>juage</b> , all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the nternational application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
	The	ese elements were a	available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:
			translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
		the language of pu	blication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
		the language of a 155.2 and/or 55.3).	translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule
3.			leotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the y examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:
		contained in the in	ternational application in written form.
		filed together with	the international application in computer readable form.
		furnished subsequ	ently to this Authority in written form.
		furnished subsequ	ently to this Authority in computer readable form.
			the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in oplication as filed has been furnished.
		The statement that listing has been ful	the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence rnished.
٠.	The	amendments have	resulted in the cancellation of:
		the description,	pages:
		the claims,	Nos.:



# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/US00/02423

		the drawings,	sheets:		
5.					ome of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):
		(Any replacement shi report.)	eet contai	ning such	amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this
6.	Add	litional observations, if	necessar	y:	
V.		soned statement unditions and explanatio			ith regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
			iis suppo	rung suc	n statement
1.		tement	ns suppo	rung suc	an otalement
1.	Stat	•	Yes: No:	Claims	
1.	Stat	tement	Yes:	Claims	4,11 1-3,5-10,12-32
1.	Stat Nov Inve	tement velty (N)	Yes: No: Yes: No:	Claims Claims	4,11 1-3,5-10,12-32

2. Citations and explanations see separate sheet

### VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted: see separate sheet

# VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made: see separate sheet





# EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET

International application No. PCT/US00/02423

## Re Item VIII

# Certain observations on the international application

- 1. The application does not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT, because independent product claims 1-4, 11, 13, 23 and 32 are not clear.
- 1.1. Although the groups of claims 1-4, 13, 23 and 32 have been drafted as separate independent claims, they appear to relate within each single group effectively to the same subject-matter and to differ from each other only with regard to the definition of the subject-matter for which protection is sought or in respect of the terminology used for the features of that subject-matter. The aforementioned claims therefore lack conciseness.

Moreover, lack of clarity of the claims as a whole arises, since the plurality of independent claims makes it difficult, if not impossible, to determine the matter for which protection is sought, and places an undue burden on others seeking to establish the extent of the protection.

In this case one independent claim is appropriate.

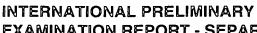
- 1.2. The present wording of claim 1 "...so as to form a liquid seal..." is open to interpretation and suggests that the seal itself is liquid. The intended meaning seams to be '...so as to form a liquid tight seal...' (cf. present claims 13, 23; page 15, lines 2 and 28-29)...
- 1.3. It is not clear how "a membrane formed of one or more fibers wound around an axis" (emphasis by the examining division) can "form a depth filter" (cf. claim 4, lines 1 and 2) since any depth filter requires a filtration layer of a certain appropriate thickness.

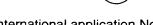
The same objection applies to claim 11, which presently refers to claim 1. Hence, claims 4 and 11 are not clear.

In any case, it seems that the subject-matter of dependent claim 11 and independent claim 4 is the same and, hence, claim 4 seems to be obsolete.

### Re Item V

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step





International application No. PCT/US00/02423

### **EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

# or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US-A-5 158 680 (T.KAWAI ET AL) 27 October 1992 (1992-10-27) cited in the application

D2: EP-A-0 217 482 (HR TEXTRON INC) 8 April 1987 (1987-04-08)

D3: US-A-5 855 783 (A.C.SHUCOSKY ET AL) 5 January 1999 (1999-01-05)

- 2. In so far as what can be understood from the claims: The present application does not satisfy the criterion set forth in Article 33 (2) PCT because the subject-matter of claims 1-3, 5-10 and 12-32 is not new as defined in the regulations (Rule 64 (1)-(3) PCT).
- 2.1. Document D1 discloses a "polytetrafluoroethylene resin porous membrane suitable for use in the condensation and separation of substances by, for example, ultrafiltration, micro filtration and so forth, as well as to a separator making use of this porous membrane and methods of producing the porous membrane and the separator" (cf. col. 1, lines 13-19).

The perfluorinated thermoplastic resin used is a "tetrafluoroethylene homopolymer or a copolymer which contains not less than 50 mol%, preferably not less than 60 mol% and more preferably not less than 80 mol% of tetrafluoroethylene in terms of monomer unit, e.g., a tetrafluoroethylene-perfluoroalkylvinylether copolymer, a tetrafluoroethylene-hexafluoropropylene copolymer, a tetrafluoroethylene-ethylene copolymer and so forth, or their mixture" (cf. col. 3, lines 44-52).

Both the membranes and the seals are formed of said resin (cf. col. 8, lines 8-48; example 5, claims 1-6).

The membranes of D1 may have the form of hollow fibres to be incorporated in separators (cf. col. 9, lines 16-62; fig. 22 and 23) or as a sheet-type membrane. "In case of a sheet-type membrane, the membrane was incorporated in a commercially available cartridge" (cf. col. 10, lines 57-58).

Thus, as D1 discloses all the technical features defined by the subject-matter of claims 1-3, 5-10 and 12-32 of the present application, said subject-matter is not new in respect of prior art as defined in the regulations (Rule 64(1)-(3) PCT).





# International application No. PCT/US00/02423

**EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET** 

- 2.2. In the unlikely case that the person skilled in the art would have any residual doubt if the cartridges of D1 can be shaped as detailed in present independent claims 13, 23 and 32, this doubt would be removed by the teachings of any of D2 or D3 (cf. the figures).
- 2.3. Independently from the above the applicant's attention is further drawn to the fact that the teachings both D2 ands D3, taken independently from each other, form a novelty bar for present claims 1, 2, 13 and 23.

# Re Item VII

# Certain defects in the international application

Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the documents D2 and D3 is not mentioned in the description, nor is this document identified therein.

## **PATENT COOPERATION TREA**

### From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

MILLIPORE CORPORATION Attn. Hubbard, John Dana. 80 Ashby Road

# PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT OR THE DECLARATION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	(PCT Rule 44.1)
	Date of mailing (day/month/year) 19/07/2000
Applicant's or agent's file reference	
MCA-437 PC	FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraphs 1 and 4 below
International application No.	International filing date
PCT/US 00/02423	(day/month/year) 28/01/2000
Applicant	
MILLIPORE CORPORATION et al.	
1. X The applicant is hereby notified that the International Searce	ch Report has been established and is transmitted herewith.
Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19: The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the clair	ns of the International Application (see Rule 46):
When? The time limit for filing such amendments is norm. International Search Report; however, for more de-	
Where? Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Fascimile No.: (41–22) 740.14.3	5
For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the according	ompanying sheet.
2. The applicant is hereby notified that no International Searc Article 17(2)(a) to that effect is transmitted herewith.	ch Report will be established and that the declaration under
3. With regard to the protest against payment of (an) addition	onal fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:
the protest together with the decision thereon has bee applicant's request to forward the texts of both the pro-	en transmitted to the International Bureau together with the otest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
no decision has been made yet on the protest; the app	plicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.
4. Further action(s): The applicant is reminded of the following:	
Shortly after 18 months from the priority date, the international a If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided completion of the technical preparations for international publications.	e of withdrawal of the international application, or of the
Within 19 months from the priority date, a demand for internation wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until 30 months.	onths from the priority date (in some Offices even later).
Within 20 months from the priority date, the applicant must perform before all designated Offices which have not been elected in the priority date or could not be elected because they are not bound	ne demand or in a later election within 19 months from the

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Chantal Meyer





These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the PCT Applicant's Guide, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions respectively.

### INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international polication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only.

#### What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

#### When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

### Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been is filed, see below.

### How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

# What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.



The letter must indicate the differences between the claims as filed and the claims as amended. It must, in particular, indicate, in connection with each claim appearing in the international application (it being understood that identical indications concerning several claims may be grouped), whether

- (i) the claim is unchanged;
- (ii) the claim is cancelled;
- (iii) the claim is new:
- (iv) the claim replaces one or more claims as filed;
- (v) the claim is the result of the division of a claim as filed.

# The following examples illustrate the manner in which amendments must be explained in the accompanying letter:

- [Where originally there were 48 claims and after amendment of some claims there are 51]:
  "Claims 1 to 29, 31, 32, 34, 35, 37 to 48 replaced by amended claims bearing the same numbers;
  claims 30, 33 and 36 unchanged; new claims 49 to 51 added."
- [Where originally there were 15 claims and after amendment of all claims there are 11]: "Claims 1 to 15 replaced by amended claims 1 to 11."
- [Where originally there were 14 claims and the amendments consist in cancelling some claims and in adding new claims]:
   "Claims 1 to 6 and 14 unchanged; claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added." or "Claims 7 to 13 cancelled; new claims 15, 16 and 17 added; all other claims unchanged."
- 4. [Where various kinds of amendments are made]: "Claims 1-10 unchanged; claims 11 to 13, 18 and 19 cancelled; claims 14, 15 and 16 replaced by amended claim 14; claim 17 subdivided into amended claims 15, 16 and 17; new claims 20 and 21 added."

#### "Statement under article 19(1)" (Rule 46.4)

The amendments may be accompanied by a statement explaining the amendments and indicating any impact that such amendments might have on the description and the drawings (which cannot be amended under Article 19(1)).

The statement will be published with the international application and the amended claims.

### It must be in the language in which the international appplication is to be published.

It must be brief, not exceeding 500 words if in English or if translated into English.

It should not be confused with and does not replace the letter indicating the differences between the claims as filed and as amended. It must be filed on a separate sheet and must be identified as such by a heading, preferably by using the words "Statement under Article 19(1)."

It may not contain any disparaging comments on the international search report or the relevance of citations contained in that report. Reference to citations, relevant to a given claim, contained in the international search report may be made only in connection with an amendment of that claim.

# Consequence if a demand for international preliminary examination has already been filed

If, at the time of filing any amendments under Article 19, a demand for international preliminary examination has already been submitted, the applicant must preferably, at the same time of filing the amendments with the International Bureau, also file a copy of such amendments with the International Preliminary Examining Authority (see Rule 62.2(a), first sentence).

# Consequence with regard to translation of the international application for entry into the national phase

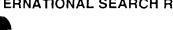
The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that, where upon entry into the national phase, a translation of the claims as amended under Article 19 may have to be furnished to the designated/elected Offices, instead of, or in addition to, the translation of the claims as filed.

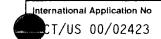
For further details on the requirements of each designated/elected Office, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.



(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference  MCA-437 PC		of Transmittal of International Search Report 220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No.	International filing date (day/month/year)	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year)
PCT/US 00/02423	28/01/2000	20/01/1000
Applicant	28/01/2000	29/01/1999
Applicant		
MILLIPORE CORPORATION et	al.	
This International Search Report has been according to Article 18. A copy is being tra	n prepared by this International Searching Aut ansmitted to the International Bureau.	hority and is transmitted to the applicant
This International Search Report consists  [X] It is also accompanied by	of a total of <u>3</u> sheets. a copy of each prior art document cited in this	s report.
Basis of the report		
With regard to the language, the language in which it was filed, unl	international search was carried out on the ba ess otherwise indicated under this item.	sis of the international application in the
the international search w Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).	as carried out on the basis of a translation of	he international application furnished to this
b. With regard to any nucleotide an was carried out on the basis of the	d/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the in	nternational application, the international search
	nal application in written form.	
filed together with the inte	rnational application in computer readable for	m.
furnished subsequently to	this Authority in written form.	
furnished subsequently to	this Authority in computer readble form.	
the statement that the sub international application as	sequently furnished written sequence listing o s filed has been furnished.	oes not go beyond the disclosure in the
the statement that the info furnished	rmation recorded in computer readable form i	s identical to the written sequence listing has been
2. Certain claims were four	nd unsearchable (See Box I).	
3. Unity of invention is lack	ilng (see Box II).	
4. With regard to the title,		
the text is approved as sul	omitted by the applicant.	
	ned by this Authority to read as follows:	
<ol><li>With regard to the abstract,</li></ol>		
X the text is approved as sub	omitted by the applicant.	
the text has been establish		ty as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, ort, submit comments to this Authority.
6. The figure of the <b>drawings</b> to be published.	shed with the abstract is Figure No.	1
as suggested by the applic	ant.	None of the figures.
X because the applicant faile	d to suggest a figure.	<del>_</del>
because this figure better of	characterizes the invention.	





A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 B01D29/11 B01D63/02

1D63/02 B01D63/06

B01D71/36

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

#### **B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC  $\,\,7\,\,$  B010

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

WPI Data, PAJ, EPO-Internal

C. DOCUM	ENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of t	he relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 175 432 A (HR TEXTRON INC 26 March 1986 (1986-03-26)		1,2,4-7, 9,10, 13-19, 23-32
	page 2, line 5-29 -page 3, lir claims; figures	ne 5-19;	
X	EP 0 217 482 A (HR TEXTRON INC 8 April 1987 (1987-04-08)		1,2,4-7, 9,10, 13-19, 23-32
	claims; figures		
A	DE 34 44 387 A (HR TEXTRON INC 11 July 1985 (1985-07-11)		1,2,4-7, 9,10, 13-19, 23-32
	claims 		23-32
		-/	
χ Furth	ner documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	χ Patent family members are lister	d in annex.
'A" docume conside affiling de the course which is citation of the course of the cours	nt which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or s cited to establish the publication date of another o or other special reason (as specified) ant referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or	"T" later document published after the int or priority date and not in conflict with cited to understand the principle or the invention state of the cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the difference of the cannot be considered to involve an indocument is combined with one or ments, such combination being obvious in the art.  "&" document member of the same paten	n the application but neory underlying the claimed invention of the considered to ocument is taken alone claimed invention nventive step when the lore other such docupous to a person skilled

10 July 2000

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016

Name and mailing address of the ISA

19/07/2000

Cordero Alvarez, M

Authorized officer

International Application No T/US 00/02423

	ation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT	
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 855 783 A (A.C.SHUCOSKY ET AL) 5 January 1999 (1999-01-05) column 2, line 54,55 -column 5, line 39-45; claims	1-32
A	US 5 154 827 A (CHJ.ASHELIN ET AL) 13 October 1992 (1992-10-13) cited in the application claim 6	1,13,23,
A	US 5 158 680 A (T.KAWAI ET AL) 27 October 1992 (1992-10-27) cited in the application claims	5-7,18, 19,30,31
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